

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method for increasing an amount of a security available to an investor for borrow, the security issued by a first entity, the method comprising:

by a second entity,

purchasing a first quantity of the security;

entering into a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the security to the first entity; and

lending a third quantity of the security to the investor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the security includes purchasing the first quantity of the security from the first entity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the security includes purchasing the first quantity of the security from an intermediary.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the security includes purchasing common stock.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the security includes purchasing the first quantity of the security for a first price, and wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes obligating the second entity to subsequently deliver the second quantity of the security to the first entity for the first price.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a quantity of the security equal to the first quantity to the first entity.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes entering into the forward purchase contract when the first quantity of the security is purchased.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes the second entity receiving a first payment before a settlement date of the forward purchase contract.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the second entity receiving the first payment includes the second entity receiving the first payment when the forward purchase contract is entered into.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the second entity receiving the first payment includes the second entity receiving a payment equal to a sale price of the second quantity of the security.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to pay the first entity an amount equal to a sum of:

a total of any distributions paid on the security until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract; and

a total of any payments the second entity receives for lending the third quantity of the security to the investor.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to pay the first entity a second amount equal to a total of any distributions paid on the security until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the forward purchase contract permits the second entity to pay at least a portion of the second amount with stock.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to pay the first entity a third amount equal to a total of any payments the second entity receives for lending the third quantity of the security to the investor.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the forward purchase contract permits the second entity to pay at least a portion of the third amount with stock.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to fulfill the forward purchase contract by a settlement date that is one of a maturity date of a second security issued by the first entity, a put date of the second security and a call date of the second security.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein lending the third quantity of the security to the investor includes lending at least one of the first and second quantities of the security to the investor.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein lending the third quantity of the security to the investor includes lending the third quantity of the security to the investor when the first quantity of the security is purchased and the forward purchase contract is entered into.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein lending the third quantity of the security to the investor includes lending the third quantity of the security to the investor after the first quantity of the security is purchased and the forward purchase contract is entered into.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the second entity underwriting an issuance of a second security issued by the first entity.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the second security has at least one of a maturity date, a call date, and a put date that coincides with a settlement date of the forward purchase contract.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 22, wherein ~~underwriting the issuance of~~ the second security ~~includes underwriting the issuance of~~ comprises a convertible securities security selected from the group comprising a convertible bond security and a convertible preferred stock security.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A system for increasing an amount of a security available to an investor for borrow, the security issued by a first entity, the system comprising:

a computing device for;

purchasing, on behalf of a second entity, a first quantity of the security as part of a transaction that includes a forward purchase contract that obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the security to the first entity;

electronically transferring funds between an account of the first entity and an account of the second entity;

lending, on behalf of the second entity, a third quantity of the security to an investor; and

electronically transferring funds between an account of the investor and an account of the second entity.

27-29 (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, having stored thereon instructions which when executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to;
purchase, on behalf of an entity, a first quantity of a security as part of a transaction that includes a forward purchase contract that obligates the entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the security to another entity;

electronically transfer funds between an account of the entity and an account of the another entity;

lend, on behalf of the entity, a third quantity of the security to an investor;

electronically transfer funds between an account of the investor and an account of the entity.

31-33 (Canceled)